

Media Advisory

from the South Carolina Forestry Commission



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Forestry Commission lifts Red Flag Fire Alert in Pee Dee counties

SCFC continues to urge vigilance when burning, making notification, taking proper precautions

COLUMBIA—The South Carolina Forestry Commission is rescinding its Red Flag Fire Alert for counties in the Pee Dee region of the state, effective at 6 a.m. Wednesday, March 9.

Improving weather conditions have reduced elevated wildfire danger considerably in those areas, eliminating the need to encourage citizens to voluntarily postpone their outdoor burning.

Tuesday the agency lifted its statewide alert, originally issued the day before, for all counties except Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter and Williamsburg. Weather conditions, combined with a large number of uncontrolled wildfires in those counties, prompted Forestry Commission officials to keep the alert in place for an extra day.

The Forestry Commission reminds residents that state law requires anyone planning to burn outdoors (outside of city limits) to notify the Forestry Commission in advance. Two types of public outdoor burning are permitted in South Carolina:

Residential Yard Debris Burning

The law applies to burning leaves, limbs and branches that people clean up from their yards. The notification law does not apply within town or city limits. Find every county's toll-free notification number on the [SCFC website](#).

Forestry, Wildlife and Agricultural Burning (Prescribed Burning)

This type of burning includes that for wildfire hazard reduction, brush control, endangered species management, wildlife habitat improvement, plant disease control, crop residue removal and preparation of land for planting trees or agricultural crops. All burning for forestry, wildlife and agriculture must comply with SC Smoke Management Guidelines. To make notification, regardless of county, please call (800) 777-3473.

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As the only state agency responsible for wildfire suppression in all unincorporated areas of the state, the South Carolina Forestry Commission protects 12.9 million acres from wildland fire. More than 500 county, municipal and volunteer fire departments operate more than 1,100 fire stations in South Carolina. The Forestry Commission cooperates with these departments to prevent and control structural and wildland fires, employing highly trained firefighters and specialized equipment when fires burn into forested areas that are difficult to reach.